[Translation]

Memorandum against Public Schools

2933. SHRI KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the representatives of the Delhi Parents Federation has submitted any memorandum against the arbitrary manner of public schools; and

(b) if so, the basic contents thereof and the decision taken or likely to be taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) The Govt. of NCT of Delhi have informed that they have received a memorandum from Delhi Parents Federation regarding disproportionate hike in fees, misuse of funds, etc. in recognised private schools. The Directorate of Education of that Govt. has conducted special inspections to ascertain facts in order to issue suitable directives for redressal of grievances.

[English]

Promotion of Cave Tourism in Meghalaya

2934. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Asia's longest cave has been discovered in Meghalaya;

(b) whether Meghalaya also has a large number of other caves of various length;

(c) the details with regard to these caves;

(d) whether the Union Goverment in collaboration with the State Government propose to promote cave tourism in Meghalaya; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the information given by the State Government, one of the caves located at Lumshnong, Jaintia Hills District is reportedly the longest surveyed cave in India. Other caves of various lengths are also scattered over the State.

(d) and (e) For promoting Cave Tourism in Meghalaya, the Department of Tourism in Consultation with the State Government has identified two cave projects for financial assistance during 1997-98. These are (i) purchase of equipment for Cave Adventure Tourism; (ii) Illumination of Model Cave at Cherapunji. In addition, the State Government has brought out a brochure- 'Discover the Caves of Meghalaya.'

[Translation]

Water Crisis in Madhya Pradesh

2935. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been water crisis in Sagar town of Madhya Pradesh due to lower level of underground water;

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to complete the Rajghat Project alongwith the other measures to meet the shortage of water;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to construct a dam in Motilal near Gadhparra; and

(d) if so, the time by which the work is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir. As per long term observatios made by the Central Ground Water Board, a decline of 4.91 metres in the level of ground water has been observed in Sagar town. The present level of development of ground water in Sagar block is only 30.52 per cent and the area falls in the category of 'white' block.

(b) The scheduled date for completion of Rajghat Project Unit I (Dam) on the river Betwa is June, 1998. Unit II of the Project (Canal) is scheduled to be completed during IXth Plan. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is also executing a drinking Water supply project on the river Bewas. Completion of this project depends on availability of funds to the state Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SC/ST Posts

2936. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :